CI AC 4461(3) MIRFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH OF MIRFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR 1920,

BY

LESLIE J. MILNE,

M.D., C.M., M.A., (Univ. Abdn.),

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,

Certifying Factory Surgeon for Dewsbury.

Medical Officer of Health

FOR MIRFIELD.

WM. JEFFERY, PRINTER, KING STREET, MIRFIELD.

BRITISH MUSEUM
1916
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Members of the Mirfield Urban District Council, 1919-20.

MR. FREEDOM BARROWCLOUGH (Chairman)
LT.-COL. JAMES WALKER (Vice-Chairman)
MR. THOMAS PLATT
,, HENRY ROBERTS
,, SAMUEL R. WILLIAMSON
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,, ABRAHAM WALKER
,, CECIL WALKER
,, H. LOCKWOOD
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,, JAMES WM. JENKINS

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MR. EDWIN GILL.

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MR. C. H. SCHOLEFIELD.

Medical Officer:
DR. LESLIE J. MILNE.

Members of the Liversedge & Mirfield Joint Hospital Board.

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Joint Clerks:
MR. GEORGE TOPHAM.
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Medical Officers:
LESLIE J. MILNE, M.D., M.A.
G. E. PECKETT-DAVIS, M.B.
LAWRENCE PICK, M.B.

BRITISH MUSEUM 66 OCT

The Sixteenth Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health for Mirfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
and to the Ministry of Health.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the district for 1920.

Elaborate details are not required for a small Urban District.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District:

(1) Population.

The census in 1911 showed that the population was 11,712.

The Registrar-General has estimated the population for 1920 at 12,105. Next year a fresh Census will have been taken and rates will be more accurately calculated.

(2) Physical Features.

The Urban District of Mirfield consists of a section of about three miles of the Calder Valley running from West to East.

On the South side of the Calder the land rises rather steeply to a height of 600 feet, and the land on the North side rises to a height of 426 feet, the slope being more gradual. The bed of the Calder is about 150 feet above Ordance Datum.

Geologically the district rests on the Lower Coal Measures, which form part of the Upper Carboniferous System.

It cannot be said that the Coal Measures form ideal sites for building purposes, as the sub-soil, being chiefly clays and shales, is impervious, and holds the water on the surface until evaporated. Stone has been quarried in several parts of the district but the quality is not good.

The greatest length of the district from east to west is about $2\frac{5}{8}$ miles, and from north to south about 3 miles.

Although the population of Mirfield is 12,105, still the district presents to a great extent a rural appearance.

(3) The Social Conditions.

Mirfield comprises 3,394 acres with about 3,145 occupied houses.

The rateable value, as stated in the valuation list, is £59,655, and the assessable value £58,340. The General District Rate was 6/6.

For Poor Rate purposes, the gross estimated rental is £85,969, and the assessable value £58,340. The Poor Rate was 8/-.

The chief manufactures of the district are Heavy Woollen Goods, Blankets, Cloths, Yarns, Card Clothing, Malting, Cotton Spinning and Doubling, Chemicals, and Brushes. Coal is also obtainable in the district, and there are several Collieries just outside the boundaries.

Trade was very good during the first few months of the year, but a terrible slump has since set in such as no one in the district has ever experienced before. The long queues at the Labour Exchanges show the amount of unemployment.

A large number of patients were treated in the Memorial Hospital, but fewer operations were performed owing to the difficulty of getting nurses. The Hospital had to be closed for several weeks. Four deaths occured in the Hospital. Many patients have been sent to Leeds, Huddersfield and Dewsbury Infirmaries.

There were 73 cases treated in the Fever Hospital from this district.

The number of persons from Mirfield who received in-door relief during the year was 35 (10 men, 19 women and 6 children).

The number of old people in receipt of old age pensions is about 250.

The number of persons who received out-door relief was 79 (16 men, 39 women and 24 children). Amount £1,234 6s. 7d.

Four persons of unsound mind were removed to the asylum.

(4) Infant Welfare Work.

I am ashamed to confess that "The Robert Swire Memorial" has not yet been opened, although it was accepted by the Council and approved as suitable so far back as 31st May, 1920. Centres are now established in almost every district in England and Wales.

There is much ignorance as to what a Child Welfare Centre is.

It is meant to educate the mother to rear healthy children. Improper diet, improper clothing and ignorant handling, are common causes of Infantile Mortality. The centre is not an out-patient department—it is preventive not curative.

Minor ailments such as ringworm, scabies, impetigo, otorrhœa are treated, and advice given on the health of infants or school children.

In cases of serious illness mothers are sent to their own doctor, or to hospitals. The cow is not a substitute for the mother, but when it is impossible for the mother to feed her child naturally, she must be told what food will best suit.

Some years ago I suggested that eugenics should be studied, for you might as well expect to rear figs from thorns, or grapes from thistles, as healthy progeny from unhealthy parents.

During the year 1920 there were 289 births notified (although only 268 registered)

Miss Davieson, the school nurse, paid 267 visits to newly-born infants; 1018 re-visits; 56 pre-natal visits; 181 special visits (ophthalmia, feeding, diarrhœa, &c.) and 127 measles visits.

Glaxo was distributed:—

(*a*) Cost Price	-	1279	Cartons.
(*b*) Half-price	-	99	,,
(*c*) Free	- -	158	,,

In future the distribution of dried milk to *necessitous cases must be certified by the Medical Officer of the Centre* or the County Medical Officer.

SCHOOL WORK.

Four schools were medically inspected towards the end of the year. All children under the age of 5 years were examined; also children of 8, 12 and 13 years. Two children were examined under the Mental Deficiency Act. Miss Davieson visited the schools on 102 different occasions and paid 301 visits to the houses of children needing special attention.

School closure was necessary only on one occasion, viz: Hopton Council School for two weeks in April on account of measles.

HOUSING.

Eight new houses were completed during the year 1920, and are now occupied, and are highly appreciated by the tenants.

Work is proceeding, and soon a much larger number will be ready, 16 being now tenanted and 74 nearly ready.

There are 3,225 dwelling houses, 2,803 of which are working-class.

The number of houses inspected for housing defects was 31, 3 of which were found unfit for human habitation and 13 found not to be in all respects reasonably fit.

Fourteen houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority.

Closet Accommodation.—There are now 1,334 W.C.'s and 1,262 privies, 41 pail closets and 105 waste W.C 's. Only 9 privies were converted in 1920.

Scavenging.—6,309 loads of refuse were removed during the year ; 4,614 on tips and 1,695 on land, at a total cost of £2,094 11s. 3d.

The roads in the district are a credit to the Surveyor, when compared with any for miles around.

MIDWIVES ACT and DISTRICT NURSES.

The introduction of fully trained district nurses has supplied a long felt want, and since the arrival of Sisters Turner and Boardman on the 8th of March, 1920, the public have so highly appreciated their services that it was found necessary towards the end of December to get a third nurse—Sister Millington. Besides acting as district nurses, all of them are trained midwives, and they are attending a large number of confinements. I anticipate that soon they will take on at least three-fourths of the total cases.

The total number of visits paid by our nurses during their first year was 8,242 including 52 maternity cases.

The scheme was originated as a Peace Memorial, and has been splendidly supported. The District Council kindly placed Ings Grove at the disposal of the nurses from 1st July, until a permanent residence can be obtained.

During the year a notice was issued regarding the attendance of unqualified women at confinements.

The conditions upon which such a person can attend are as follows :—

(a) That she acts as attendant only under the supervision of a Medical Practitioner.

(b) That the patient she attends is a doctor's patient, and attended by him.

(c) That the doctor has been engaged beforehand.

(d) That she sends for the doctor *immediately there is evidence of labour*, so that he can conduct the delivery of the patient, and take all responsibility.

Also with regard to the signing of the Maternity Form, the parents and the attendant should be informed that the doctor cannot sign the form unless he is called in, in time for the confinement.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—268 births were registered during the year, viz:—145 boys and 123 girls. This gives a birth-rate of 22.1 compared with 13.8 for last year. The B R. for England and Wales is 25.4.

This is the largest number of births since 1906 and the highest birth-rate since 1909.

There were 16 illegitimate births, 6 boys and 10 girls. There were 21 still-born children buried with a doctor's or a midwife's certificate.

The Registrar-General says:—

(1) The birth-rate for 1920 is the highest for the decade.
(2) The death-rate is the lowest ever recorded.
(3) The Infant Mortality is the lowest ever recorded.
(4) The number of births is the highest ever recorded.
(5) The number of deaths is the lowest recorded since 1862 when the population was only twenty millions.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered was 141, viz:—74 males and 67 females.

There were 16 "residents" died outside the district and 3 "non-residents" died in the district.

The death-rate, calculated on a population of 12,105, is 11.6 compared with 14.8 for last year.

The death-rate for England and Wales is 12.4.

Causes of death in Mirfield U.D. 1920—

(CIVILIANS ONLY)

	Causes of Death	Males	Females
	All Causes	74	67
1	Whooping cough ...		3
2	Diphtheria and croup		2
3	Influenza	3	
4	Erysipelas	1	
5	Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	1	2
6	Other tuberculous diseases ...		1
7	Cancer, malignant disease ...	7	3
8	Rheumatic fever	1	
9	Organic heart disease	6	10
10	Bronchitis	11	4
11	Pneumonia (*all forms*)	7	8
12	Other respiratory diseases ...	1	
13	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)		2
14	Appendicitis and typhlitis ...	1	
15	Nephritis & Bright's disease ...	5	5
16	Congenital debility, &c.	4	3
17	Violence apart from suicide ...	1	1
18	Suicide	1	1
19	Other defined diseases	24	22

		Males	Females
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age ...	Total	11	10
	Illegitimate	1	
Births	Total	145	123
	Legitimate	139	113
	Illegitimate	6	10

Population (for births and deaths) - 12,105.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Out of a total of 268 births, there were 21 deaths amongst infants under one year of age, viz: 11 males and 10 females—1 male illegitimate.

This gives an infantile mortality of 78 per 1,000, compared with 101 for the previous year and 80 for England and Wales.

Infantile mortality for the last ten years:—

1911	—	98	1916	—	88
1912	—	80	1917	—	75
1913	—	88	1918	—	53
1914	—	93	1919	—	101
1915	—	80	1920	—	78

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases was 109, viz:—

Scarlet fever	...	21	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	3
Diphtheria	...	52	Malaria ...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	25			
Erysipelas	...	7			

Seventy-two cases were treated in the Liversedge and Mirfield Joint Hospital at Crossley, viz: Scarlet fever 21, Diphtheria 49, Erysipelas 2, in addition to one Scarlet fever case from Whitley Upper and four Diphtheria cases from Kirkheaton district.

It speaks well for the care and attention of the matron and nurses that there was only one death—a case of diphtheria which died the same day as it was admitted.

Never since it was opened has the hospital been better staffed, and it is a very happy home for all the patients who are treated therein.

The care bestowed on it by the Joint Hospital Board has made it as comfortable a hospital as any in the West Riding.

The Christmas festivities were greatly enjoyed.

INFLUENZA.

This disease was fairly prevalent in April and May, but there were only three deaths.

The anti-influenza vaccine supplied by the Ministry of Health has been used frequently and I do not know of any person taking the disease after receiving the injections.

PHTHISIS.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified has been only five, which is the lowest on record. This compares with 11, 17, 16, and 7, for the previous four years.

There were only four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified.

The number of cases from Mirfield treated at the Huddersfield Tuberculosis Dispensary was :—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
New cases	7	16
Total number of cases treated ...	19	27

There are two shelters in use.

Number of visits paid by Huddersfield nurses, 319.

Four cases were sent to sanatorium.

Here follows a complete list of notifications of Tubercular diseases since the Act came into force :—

	Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
1912 ...	11	—	4	2
1913 ...	11	13	6	3
1914 ...	14	10	9	7
1915 ...	14	11	10	5
1916 ...	11	13	7	7
1917 ...	17	11	11	5
1918 ...	16	3	13	4
1919 ...	7	2	2	4
1920 ...	5	4	3	1
Total ...	106	67	65	38

Many of the deaths registered were not notified (especially non-pulmonary cases) and at least nine have left the district.

The total number still on the Register is 105, viz :—

Pulmonary, 65 ; Non-Pulmonary, 40.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

A fair number of cases from Mirfield have been treated at Dewsbury and District Infirmary, but as treatment there is carried on with the greatest secrecy, I have no notion of the number of cases.

INQUESTS.

Eight inquests were held during the year. The verdicts were :—drowning (2), convulsions, hæmorrhage of spleen, heart failure, accident, chronic bronchitis and septicœmia.

Return of Average Attendance of Children at Mirfield Elementary Schools, 1920.

Name of School	Dept.	Accommodation	Average attendance for month of— Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Hartshead Council	M	224	104	105	103	103	106	107	108	110	106	108	109	105
Knowle Council ...	M	409	159	175	172	186	195	209	202	203	195	203	203	193
Hopton Council ...	M	360	177	170	180	192	211	215	214	192	195	207	209	200
,,	I	240	67	59	65	37	39	62	67	74	79	86	89	78
Northorpe Council	M	60	56	56	56	62	67	67	69	65	64	71	69	60
Mirfield National	B	254	96	97	99	112	116	117	115	106	103	105	106	102
,,	G	123	91	87	87	102	103	104	102	105	103	103	98	100
,,	I	125	74	68	58	56	60	71	71	81	82	81	81	76
Battyeford C. of E.	M	239	171	179	177	187	194	209	127	195	181	187	182	182
,,	I	120	66	79	74	43	37	62	65	70	66	68	66	61
Battyef'd S.Peter's	I	159	43	43	44	40	41	47	49	53	49	48	43	41
Eastthorpe C. of E.	G	190	85	82	87	94	100	97	95	94	87	88	90	89
,,	I	211	49	47	60	53	45	47	55	57	55	57	60	65
Northorpe Ch. of E.	I	141	79	62	54	52	52	63	67	75	75	75	75	71
Upp. Hopt'n C.of E.	M	172	105	110	105	100	91	105	103	102	101	102	100	104
		3027	1414	1410	845	1419	1457	1582	1580	1589	1541	1589	1589	1536

VACCINATION.

Mirfield and Ravensthorpe are one Registration District.

Successful Certificates 127 (70 performed by the public vaccinator). Exemption Certificates 132.

METEOROLOGY.

Mr. F. P. Mitchell has again kindly furnished me with the following particulars:—

Months	*Minimum Temperature.*	*Maximum Temperature.*	*Rain* *No. of Days.*	*Rain* *Amount in inches.*	*Months*	*Minimum Temperature.*	*Maximum Temperature*	*Rain.* *No. of Days.*	*Rain.* *Amount in inches*
Jan....	30·16	40·24	21	4·16	July	45·8	57·10	20	8·17
Feb...	31·7	41·0	11	3·13	Aug.	42·0	55·28	13	1·43
Mar...	33·1	43·22	17	2·48	Sept.	42·3	53·10	13	1·74
April	25·12	45·6	25	4·24	Oct.	38·26	48·0	11	3·23
May	42·28	51·11	18	3·73	Nov.	36·11	44·12	11	2·04
June	40·6	56·13	13	3·28	Dec.	31·19	41·22	17	3·65

Total days of rain 190.

Total rainfall 41·28 in inches.

OPEN-AIR SPACES.

Ings Grove Public Park was opened on July 2nd and has already proved a great boon to many. The cricket-field has also been purchased and will be a great resort for healthful recreation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Three cases of anthrax and three of septic poisoning were notified.

Seven-hundred and forty-eight young persons (including 16 children) were examined in the Mirfield District during 1920, and 489 in the Dewsbury district since March.

Tables C & D and Form 572 have been filled in and forwarded to the proper authorities.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, my thanks are due to the Members of the District Council and Joint Hospital Board and to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for much assistance rendered during the year.

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE J. MILNE,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Balgownie House, Mirfield,
April, 1921.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To Dr. Leslie J. Milne, Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Sanitary District of Mirfield.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report and tabular statement (under Article 20, (16) of the L.G R. General Order 13th December, 1910) of the work carried out in the Health Department during the year ended December 31st, 1920.

NO. OF HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT—

Eastthorpe Ward	...	664
Hopton Ward ...	...	696
Battyeford Ward	...	992
Northorpe Ward	...	874
Total	...	3,226

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

		No. of Privies.	Water Closets.	Slop Water Closets.	Pail Closets.
Eastthorpe Ward	...	230	424	33	5
Hopton ,,	...	278	254	39	26
Battyeford ,,	...	361	376	30	6
Northorpe ,,	...	393	280	3	4
Total	...	1 262	1,334	105	41

No. of Privies converted to water carriage system and bins substituted for fixed receptacles during:—

Privies converted.	1913—42	1916—24	1919—14
	1914—102	1917—14	1920—9
	1915—46	1918—4	
Bins substituted.	1913—34	1916—17	1919—9
	1914—25	1917—0	1920—11
	1915—28	1918—2	

SANITARY INSPECTIONS, Etc.

Premises Inspections	2,667
Complaints received	15
House to House Inspections	31
Dairies	89

Cowsheds	93
Bakehouses	33
Slaughter-houses	91
Fried Fish Shops	39
Smoke Observations	226
Canal Boats	36
Houses fumigated	71
Milk Samples taken...	3
Factories and Workshops	84
Drains	139
Pig Sties	26
Van-dwellings	13
Re-inspections and re-visits	223
Interviews with owners, etc.	116
Inspections of work in progress	72
Beddings disinfected	2

NUISANCES DISCOVERED—

Dirty and dilapidated premises	10
Defective Roofs	26
Rainwater spouts and gutters	18
Defective Drains	48
,, W.C's.	20
,, Waste-pipes	13
,, Privies and Ashpits	25
,, Dust Bins	4
,, Yards	2
,, Pail Closets	1
Offensive Accumulations	14
Houses without proper water supply ...	7
Quarry insufficiently fenced	1
Total ...	189

NOTICES SERVED—

To Limewash and Clean	187
Verbal and others to abate nuisances ...	238
Statutory	1

RESULTS –

Nuisances found abated	173
,, outstanding	35

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES—

These have been inspected regularly, 93 visits having been made. The cattle and cowsheds generally were found to be kept clean, but in some few cases the buildings are not suitable for cowsheds and the system of drainage bad.

No. of Cowkeepers	33
,, Cowsheds (in use) ...	53
,, Milch Cattle (approx.)	250

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 15 slaughter-houses in the district all of which are in regular use. 91 inspections have been made and they were found to be kept clean, etc. It is impossible to make an inspection of all meat at the time of slaughter in so many places. No disease has been found in the meat inspected and the conditions of slaughter-houses with three exceptions are good.

	1914	Jany. 1920	Dec. 1920
Registered Slaughter-houses	9	7	7
Licensed ,,	9	8	8

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 8 bakehouses in the district and on the 33 occasions of inspection the Sanitary conditions, cleanliness, and quality of the food manufactured were all that could be desired.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Inspections have been made at irregular intervals and the cleanliness and quality of the fish, etc , in all the shops (9 in number) were found to be satisfactory.

WORKSHOPS.

No. on Register 68.

135 inspections have been made and the Sanitary conditions, conveniences and cleanliness were found to be satisfactory with two exceptions, where on verbal notice limewashing and cleaning were carried out.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

During the year 226 observations of smoke emitted from the Factory and Works Chimneys were taken and on five occasions the time limit fixed by the Council was exceeded. There has been a marked decrease in the amount emitted by a good many firms but there are some chimneys belching forth stuff which could be used to far better purpose than that of polluting the atmosphere to the detriment of human, animal and plant life.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts 31 houses have been inspected and the following is a tabular statement of the defects found : -

No. of houses inspected	... ...	31
,, with defects	...	23
,, defects made good		9

Default of Owners—

Houses with Defective	Roof		5
,, ,, ,,	Sink		1
,, ,, ,,	Ventilation		18
,, ,, ,,	Floors		1
,, ,, ,,	Roofs gutters ...		10
,, ,, ,,	Rainwater pipes ...		3
,, ,, ,,	Walls		3
,, ,, ,,	Ceilings		3
,, ,, ,,	Food Store		11
,, ,,	Insufficient Water Supply ...		5
,, ,, ,,	Light		5

Default of Tenant: Dirty houses—Floors, 2; Walls, 2; Ceilings, 2.

CANAL BOATS.

36 Canal Boats have been inspected and the following is the report (re Sec. 3 of the Canal Boats Acts, 1884) sent to the Chief Canal Boats Inspector of the Ministry of Health.

1. Canal Boats Inspector authorised by appointment to examine and report on all Boats plying within the district.

2. Any infringements of Canal Boats Acts with respect to:—
   (a) Registration. No.
   (b) Notifications of change of Master. No.
   (c) Certificates. No.
   (d) Marking. Two.
   (e) Overcrowding. No.
   (f) Separation of Sexes. No.
   (g) Cleanliness. No.
   (h) Ventilation. No.
   (i) Painting. Two.
   (j) Provision of Water Cask. No.
   (k) Removal of Bilge Water. No.
   (l) Notification of Infectious Disease. No.
   (m) Admittance of Inspector. No.

4. Legal proceedings for infringement of Acts. Nil.

5. Other steps to secure compliance with Acts (preliminary notices sent). Four.

6. Cases of infectious disease dealt with. Nil.

7. Detention of Boats for cleansing and disinfection. Nil.

8. Total No. of Boats on Register, showing—333.
   (a) No. of Boats believed to be in use—207.
   (b) ,, ,, propelled by Motor. Nil.
   (c) ,, ,, that cannot be traced. 26.

9. No. of (a) Motor propelled Boats, etc. Nil.
   ,, (b) other Boats registered in 1920, new. Nil.
   ,, (c) other Boats registered in 1920, on account of structural alterations. Nil.

SCAVENGING.

The removal and disposal of house refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and bins, is carried out by the Council in a regular systematic manner, the tabular form below gives the amount of refuse removed, etc., and the cost.

No. of loads on Tips ...	4,614
,, ,, Land ...	1,695
Total ...	6,309

	£	s.	d.
Men's Wages	736	16	3
Cost of Teams	1,323	12	6
Tips	56	13	6
Disinfectants	13	10	0
	£2,130	12	3
Less removal of Trade refuse and salvage	36	1	0
	£2,094	11	3

For the courtesy of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health towards me, I beg to express my appreciation and thanks.

I am,

Yours obediently,

C. H. SCHOLEFIELD,

INSPECTOR.